ACT IV. SCENE I.

Without the Walls of

Athens.

Enter TIMON.

TIM, Let me look back upon thee, O thou wall, That girdlest in those wolves ! Dive in the earth, And fence not Athens ! Matrons, turn incontinent; Obedience fail in children I slaves, and fools, Pluck the grave wrinkled senate from the bench, And minister in their steads ! to general filths[9] Convert o' the instant, green[1] virginity! Do't in your parents* eyes! bankrupts, hold fast; Rather than render back, out with your knives, And cut your trusters' throats! bound servants, steal!
Large-handed robbers your grave masters are, And pill by law: maid, to thy master's bed; Thy mistress is o' the brothel[2]! son of sixteen, Pluck the lin'd crutch from the old limping sire, With it beat out his brains! piety, and fear, Religion to the gods, peace, justice, truth, Domestick awe, night-rest, and neighbourhood,

9 — general filths —] i. e, common sewers. STEEVENS.

[1] — green —] i. e. immature. So, in Antony and Cleopatra:

" When I was *green* in judgment—."

SJTEEVENS.

[2] — 0' the brothel!] So the old copies. Sir Thomas Hanmer reads, *i'* the brothel. JOHNSON.

One would suppose it to mean, that the mistress frequented the brothel; and so Sir Thomas Hanmer understood it. RITSON. ,

The meaning is, go to thy master's bed, for he is alone ; thy mistress is now *of* the brothel; is now there. In the old copy, *ith, o'th*| and *cCth*| are written with very little care., or rather seem to have been set down at random in different places. MALONE.

" *Of* the brothel! " is the true reading. So, in King Lear, Act II. Sc. II. the Steward says to Kent, " Art *qfiht* house ? " STEEVENS.